

Connections



The Newsletter of GENCOM, The Computer Genealogy Group

Editor: Patricia Minton Bettis

May 18 Meeting
Sunday 2:00 Hamilton S. Caddo Library
Meeting date changed as library will be closed for Memorial Day
on our usual date, the following week- end.

PROGRAM *DISPLAYING THE FAMILY HEIRLOOMS AND, TELLING THEIR STORY!*

How many of us have listed those items that have been handed down from generation to generation and are now under your protection as keeper of the flame as Leroy Terry so eloquently put it in the wonderful piece he presented a few years ago

Lets select an item, and bring it to the May meeting....tell us about the family that owned it and trace them as far back as you can...at this point.. (Of course that search never ends).

IN ADDITION TO AN INTERESTING PROGRAM WE ARE GOING TO PRESENT SOME PLANS FOR PRESERVING THESE TREASURES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME..

We will set up a table to display any items you would like to bring, in addition to those that will be the subject of your talk. Use any method you like to tell the story.. send me an e-mail when you decide —so we can plan the program!

Families can lose their tangible heritage, as well as their family history, when heirs don't know who else might be interested in it. Thousands of family heirlooms move from estate sales to antique shops, instead of to other family members, because the descendants of their owners don't know each other or don't know of the existence of these heirlooms

Creating databases of tangible family heirlooms not only helps families preserve their heritage, it could even help estate sale managers and antique dealers! Old photos are often sold at low prices as "instant ancestors." An item worth fifty cents to a stranger might be worth much more to a descendant of its original owner. People interested in tracing their family tree would be excited to own something that belonged to their ancestors.

The following page will list suggestions for insuring the safety and continuing existence of our cherished mementoes.

SUGGESTIONS FOR RECORDING YOUR HEIRLOOMS

*• Do you know of software for cataloging family heirlooms and artifacts?

I have books, personal papers, certificates and medals I'd like to keep track of, preferably by person.

A» Here are three options:

USE WORD PROCESSING SOFTWARE

Use word processing software to describe the items. In addition to a physical description, record the article's provenance, starting with who made it. And when, through its chain of ownership to the present day.

Who bought it and on what date? How much did they pay?

What's its present condition and value?

Are any stories associated with the item? You might also include a picture.

If you want to organize your file by original owner, put the name at the top of each page.

Print two copies. One to keep in a loose-leaf binder and another one to keep with the artifact.



USE CATALOGUING SOFTWARE

Use special software for cataloging collectibles or creating an inventory of your possessions..

And other items. (Get a free trial from www.download.com.)

LIST IN GENEALOGICAL SOFTWARE PROGRAM

Although family heirlooms aren't usually genealogical sources, Family Tree software accommodates them well.

Create a new event (fact) type for Memorabilia or Artifact, or separate types for each kind of memorabilia (Furniture, Painting, Tableware).

Enable the description field for the fact type. When you use one of these facts, enter a date and place associated with the item, such as when it was originally purchased or where it's located now. Enter a source a source citation and put a picture in the scrapbook.





There is much discussion of methods of interesting young people in Genealogy. Last month Don Davis's grandson Jacob H was visiting from San Antonio and Don had the pleasure of introducing him to the Genealogical library. The requisites of the Scout Badge requirements seem to present excellent guidelines for beginning research for anyone. For younger children there are charming family charts available with spaces for photographs of family members.

Boy Scout Genealogy Badge Requirements

1. Explain to your counselor what the words genealogy, ancestor, and descendant mean.
2. Do ONE of the following:
 1. Do a time line for yourself or for a relative. Then write a short biography based on that time line.
 2. Keep a journal for 6 weeks. You must write in it at least once a week.
3. With your parent's help, choose a relative or a family acquaintance you can interview in person, by telephone, or by e-mail or letter. Record the information you collect so you do not forget it.
4. Do the following:
 1. Name three types of genealogical resources and explain how these resources can help you chart your family tree.
 2. Obtain at least one genealogical document that supports an event that is or can be recorded on your pedigree chart or family group record. The document could be found at home or at a government office, religious organization, archive, or library.
 3. Tell how you would evaluate the genealogical information you found for requirement 4b.
5. Contact ONE of the following individuals or institutions. Ask what genealogical services, records, or activities this individual or institution provides, and report the results:
 1. A genealogical or lineage society
 2. A professional genealogist (someone who gets paid for doing genealogical research)
 3. A surname organization, such as your family's organization
 4. A genealogical education facility or institution.
 5. A genealogical record repository of any type (courthouse, genealogical library, state or national archive, state library, etc.)
6. Begin your family tree by listing yourself and include at least two additional generations. You may complete this requirement by using the chart provided in the Genealogy merit badge pamphlet or the genealogy software program of your choice.
7. Complete a family group record form, listing yourself and your brothers and sisters as the children. On another family group record form, show one of your parents and his or her brothers and sisters as the children. This requirement may be completed using the chart provided or the genealogy software program of your choice.
8. Do the following:
 1. Explain the effect computers and the Internet are having on the world of genealogy.
 2. Explain how photography (including microfilming) has influenced genealogy.
9. Discuss what you have learned about your family and your family members through your genealogical research.

Carolyn's Corner



May 2008

This month I will share some interesting web pages I have recently visited.

Wonder How To?

This site has over 62,000 how-to videos. You can find everything from recipes to how to repair things around the house. And it's free. www.wonderhowto.com

BIG BAND ERA SELECTIONS

Scroll down and click on the artist you want to hear.

You may play the song or Right click and left click on "SAVE TARGET AS"

To save the selected song to your computer.

I save mine in "My Music".

<http://hometown.aol.com/cle1019/index.htm>

PowerPoint Shows

Sometimes you will have a PowerPoint Presentation sent to you that you would love to have just one of the pictures. How do you do this? Convert the PowerPoint show (PPS) file extension to 'PPT'. To do this, you need not use any program. Just rename the extension from '.pps' to '.ppt' (can keep the same file name).

2. A message will appear: "If you change a file extension, the file may become unusable. Are you sure you want to change it?"
3. Click "YES"
4. Open the new files (with the new PPT extension) with your PowerPoint program or viewer and you can see every single slide in it.
5. Open the file and just right click and save the picture to your computer.

I hope that you all have a Safe and Happy Memorial Day weekend.

Carolyn

The President's Message

Robert Franklin



The April program was a real treat. Clifton Cardin, Bossier Parish historian, gave us a little history lesson. His message focused on how we as genealogist can use history to help uncover genealogy facts. many thanks to Clif for taking time out of his busy schedule to come and talk to us.

Over the years I have obtained much of my genealogical data from the Internet, at no cost other than the cost of my ISP. In the beginning all things on the Internet were free to all, however that's just not the case today. The Internet has grown to a powerhouse of data and information, some still free but many sites have taken a commercial twist. The commercial genealogy sites offer a vast amount of data and have greatly improved the genealogical experience. A word of caution! While most commercial genealogy sites are legitimate; there are some sites that only seek your dollars and provide little or no real service. Don't fall prey to these scams and phony sites. Do your homework to make sure you are dealing with a legit site. Remember, if it sounds to good to be true; it probably is.

In the May 6, 2008 edition of Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, Dick list several "Genealogy Rip-Offs" as he calls them. I am providing a link to this blog and encourage you to check this out.

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2008/05/the-dark-side-g.html

Sunday, May 18, 2008 will be our next meeting, hope to see you there.

Bob

Old Newspapers a Valuable Source

Bob Goode

Newspaper articles about our ancestors are especially valuable. For years, trying to find a newspaper article meant hours of wearing out your arm on a microfilm reader, looking through poorly copied images without the help of an index. The times are changing. More and more old newspapers are being digitized, not just for family historians, but also in an effort to forever preserve our past. Perhaps one of the most impressive collections of newspapers online will be *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, with emphasis on the phrase "will be." The Library of Congress and The National Endowment for the Humanities are beginning a twenty-year project of digitizing important newspapers

between 1836 and 1922. They are starting with public domain newspapers, from 1900–1910, from the District of Columbia, California, Florida, Kentucky, New York, Utah, and Virginia. Some websites are worthy of repeat trips. Get set for twenty years of visitations. For your first visit,

go to <www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/>.

While the site holds much promise, be prepared for some disappointment when using the search engine for *Chronicling America*. The Goode surname has produced search dilemmas before and this site was no different.

They use OCR (optical character recognition) for the index and OCR applications are notorious for not reading words correctly. Using the search box "...with the exact phrase" produced very dubious results.

As you can imagine, the word "goods" was very common during the early 1900s, so looking for John Goode produced many unwanted results.

. Next, I typed "Mary Hayden." Bingo!

Mary Hayden appeared with six hits.

One can live with the problem of search engines providing questionable results as long as one knows this likelihood ahead of time and can see the whole digital newspaper process as light years better than a microfilm without an index.. Just remember my earlier comments. This is a site you will need to return to over and over again. .

me at <webresources@stlgs.org>. Thanks.

Bob Goode